(d) It is not possible to compile State-wise break up of advertising agencies in the agencies are registered on all-India basis.

Reduction in Custom duty on import of Aluminium Scrap

2623. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have reduced custom duty on import of aluminium ingots and scrap to overcome the existing shortage of the metal in the country;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that 15,000 tonnes aluminium metal from Government have decided to export NALCO inspite of prevailing shortage: and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) : (a) to (c). With the sequential energisation of pots by NALCO, their production of aluminium metal is gradually increasing. During 1988-89 indigenous production of primary aluminium is expected to match the estimated demand. However, with a view to cater to any fluctuations in demand, aluminium including aluminium rods were placed under Open General Licence (OGL) in July 1988 with marginal level of customs duty of only Rs. 500 per tonne. The customs duty on import of aluminium scrap, already on OGL, has also been reduced from 95 per cent *ad valorem* to 35 per cent *ad valorem.*

As the monthly production of NALCO is picking up and has increased from the level of 5268 tonnes in June, 1983 to about 6313 tonnes in October, 1988, NALCO has been authorised to export 15,000 tonnes of high grade aluminium metal during the current year.

Import of Aluminium ingots under open general licence policy

2624. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have put the import of aluminium ingots under Open General Licence Policy in view of acute shortage of metal faced by the industry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the shortage is still continuing and Government have received representation for decontrol of the prices of aluminium metal; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking or propose to take to decontrol the prices of aluminium to ease the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) to (c) During 1988-89, the indigenous production of primary aluminium is expected to match the estimated demand. However, with a view to cater to any fluctuations in demand, Aluminium including Aluminium rods were placed under Open General Lincence (OGL) in July, 1988.

Sections of the Industry have been representing in favour of and against decontrol of aluminium for sometime now. When Natonal Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) goes into full production, further improvement in the availability of aluminium is anticipated. Various policy options including decontrol of aluminium are always kept in view for consideraton at the opportune time.

Use of Thin Walled Quick Coupling Steel Pipes for drinking water

2625. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Thin Walled Quick Coupling Steel Pipes conforming to IS-11722-1986 are injurious to health when used for purposes of drinking

water or underground services due to low wall thickness;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is no clause in the above standard banning the use of these pipes for drinking water purposes or underground services; and

(c) if so, what steps Government have taken or propose to take to incorporate such a clause in the standard IS-11722-1986 in the interest of public health?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The indicative uses given for thin walled quick coupling steel pipes in the Standard IS: 11722-1986 do not cover potable water supply system. Since these pipes are not intended for potable water supply system, the question of injury to health does not arise.

(b) The applicability of these pipes to "above ground" usage only is clearly indicated in clause 0.2 of IS: 11722-1986. The indicative usages exclude potable water supply.

(c) The concerned Technical Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards has recently decided to make two amendments to this Standard to make the specific usage of such pipes more clear. The first amendment will clearly specify that the use of such pipes are intended to "above ground" application while the second amendment to clause 0.2.1 of the Standard is being made to indicate that in case sufficient data could be generated over the years, the possibility of use of these pipes for permanent potable water supply system could be considered in future.

Allotment of land for DMS Booth and School in Vasant Vihar

2626. DR. ABRAR AHMED KHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the possession of the land has not been handed over so far by the Land and Development Officer to the DMS, MCD and the Delhi Administration for a milk booth, Primary school and the Middle School respectively in Vasant Vihar, New Dehi; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Possession of land has been handed over by Land & Development Officer to DMS on 25-10-88.

Allotment of land measuring 0.6 hec. and 2 hec in Vasant Vihar to Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Admn. for primary school and a Middle School respectively has been approved. Land & Development Officer has not issued the allotment letters due to encroachment on a portion of the said plots.

Remote area allowance to Staff of CIFA Kaushalya Ganj

2627. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to Fourth Pay Commissions recommendations, remote area allowance or backward area allowance was given to officers of Central Services in the areas officially declared as 'remote' locality;

(b) whether it is also a fact that after Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations the said allowance was extended to all category of staff in the areas declared as remote locality;

(c) whether it is also a fact that as there is no Central Government Offices at Kaushalya Ganj, Orissa the same place was not declared as remote locality (backward):

(d) whether the Central Institute for Fresh Water Aquaculture (CIFA) under Ministry of Agriculture is functioning at Kaushalya Ganj and all Scientist officers are getting the remote locality area allowance since June 1980 after being declared remote area; and